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# ALLEN - SCOTT REPORT

Inside Washington

By ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT



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## Did Reds Violate Treaty?

WASHINGTON — Alarming new information gathered by the joint Air Force-Atomic Energy Commission airborne detection team has cast a mysterious cloud over Russia's "underground" nuclear test.

The explosion, which the Soviet claims "vented" the earth's surface, spewed twice as much radioactive debris into the atmosphere as did Red China's first above-the-ground nuclear test.

This jolting Air Force-AEC discovery was revealed by Central Intelligence Director John McCone during his private briefing of the Joint Congressional Atomic Committee on the Soviet-Chinese tests.

McCone, head of the Atomic Energy Commission during the Eisenhower administration, told the legislators the startling new data resulted from a comparison of air samplings taken over Japan following the detection of the separate Communist nuclear explosion.

### GRAVE QUESTIONS

Although the Air Force-AEC finding is not conclusive proof that the Jan. 15 Soviet test was conducted in the atmosphere, McCone testified, it does raise grave questions on whether the nuclear explosion was set off underground, as the Russians contend.

McCone estimated the blast yield of the Soviet test at one megaton — comparable to a million tons of TNT.

He stressed that if the explosion was detonated underground, as claimed by the Russians, it was the largest ever attempted below the earth's surface. No U.S. underground nuclear test has approached that size.

In comparing the two Communist tests, McCone reported that China's first explosion had a blast yield of less than 50 kilotons (50,000 tons of TNT), but appeared to be an advanced nuclear device.

### LACK EVIDENCE

Under intense questioning by committee members, the CIA director admitted the U.S. has no information other than that furnished by the Russians to support the general AEC and State Department belief that the test was conducted underground and accidentally vented.

The limited nuclear test ban treaty signed by both the U.S. and the Soviet forbids experimental atomic blasts in the atmosphere, space, under water, and also underground explosions that spread radioactive debris beyond the testing state's borders.

According to McCone, the Soviet explosion occurred in the Semipalatinsk area of Southern Russia. The U.S. has recorded "seismic events" in this region from time to time, he said, but the government has no way of determining whether the incidents are underground tests or earthquakes.

In a frank discussion of the Soviet's growing nuclear arsenal, McCone stated the Russians are going all out to catch up with our lead in small-yield nuclear weapons.

When pressed about their progress in big devices, he admitted the Russians had developed and detonated nuclear weapons of far higher yield than the U.S. had prior to the treaty banning atmospheric tests.

### DISARMING THE POLARIS

The Joint Congressional Atomic Committee has quietly launched an investigation into the use of Defense Department funds to pay for disarmament studies proposing restrictions on the Navy's Polaris-firing nuclear submarines.

The committee's unannounced inquiry was touched off last week by the discovery of a unilateral arms study suggesting that Soviet observers be placed aboard Polaris submarines, and that these undersea craft "be confined to sea areas outside of the missile-firing range of the Soviet Union."

Prepared for the Navy by the Institute for Defense Analyses, the disarmament proposal was turned over to the committee by a high Navy officer who was shocked that taxpayers' money was used to make such a report.

The IDA study, now being carefully reviewed by the committee's staff, contends that by taking this unilateral arms action "the U.S. could demonstrate restraint in our relations with Russia."

### BARGAIN DEVICE

It states, "This kind of deployment could be viewed as providing the U.S. with an option of moving the submarines forward, as a 'bargaining' device in a time of tension short of war."

Since the deployment of the

Polaris submarine is one of the Navy's highest classified secrets, members of the Joint Committee, headed by Representative Chet Holifield, plan to quiz Defense Secretary McNamara on why such a disarmament proposal is even being circulated at the Pentagon.

The committeemen also plan to ask McNamara to furnish them with all disarmament studies on the control of nuclear weapons which were paid for by Defense Department funds.

Other agencies, including the Atomic Energy Commission and the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, will be requested to submit similar studies to the committee for review.

### THE BOMBSHELL

Retiring Air Force General Thomas Power's book, "Design for Survival," to be published in March, should hit the best-seller lists. The former Strategic Air Commander, who served as director of the Pentagon's Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff, goes all-out in his attack on the Johnson administration's arms policies. He charges that for the first time in our history, most of the nation's striking power is to be entrusted to weapons never fully tested operationally. His book stresses that the U.S. has never tested an intercontinental ballistic missile all the way from launch to detonation of the warhead, despite his insistent urging to do so.

NOTE: The boxed portion did not appear in the original issue of the  
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LOS ANGELES TIMES.

# McCone Raps 'Leaky' Soviet Test

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